

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, KS, US

SUBJECT:KOREAN EMBASSY STATEMENT ON MAY 31 HOUSE RESOLUTION

REF: STATE 131917

1. ON JUNE 1, KOREAN EMBASSY COUNSELLOR PARK HANDED
KOREA DESK A COPY OF THE MAY 31 STATEMENT BY EMBASSY SPOKES-
MAN KIM SU-DOC ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO THE HOUSE RESOLUTION.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

A. WE NOTE WITH REGRET THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TODAY APPROVED A RESOLUTION THAT LINKS THE MATTER OF NON-
MILITARY AID TO KOREA WITH THE REQUEST OF ITS ETHICS COM-
MITTEE REGARDING FORMER KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED
STATES, MR. KIM DONG-JO.

B. A PARTICULAR CAUSE FOR REGRET ABOUT THIS RESOLUTION IS
ITS LACK OF RECOGNITION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RE-
PUBLIC OF KOREA ALREADY HAS COOPERATED WITH THE EXECUTIVE
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AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
STATES IN THEIR EFFORT TO INVESTIGATE VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS
INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS AND CERTAIN KOREANS.
WE HAVE COOPERATED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT THAT COMITY, PRAC-
TICE AND THE LAW OF NATIONS REQUIRE OF ANY SELF-RESPECTING
NATION - OUT OF OUR STRONG DESIRE TO SAFEGUARD AND STRENGTHEN
THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

C. HOWEVER, TO ALLOW FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM TO TESTIFY AS REQUESTED IN THE RESOLUTION "UNDER OATH, AFFIRMATION, OR COMPARABLE MEANS OF ASSURING RELIABILITY" IS UNACCEPTABLE. SUCH AN ACT WOULD VIOLATE THE PROVISIONS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION WHICH IS A LAW IN FORCE BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND KOREA BY THE VIRTUE OF THEIR BEING PARTIES TO THE BINDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, ALONG WITH 123 OTHER NATIONS.

D. IT IS A STRONG BELIEF OF MY GOVERNMENT THAT TO MEET THE REQUEST OF THIS RESOLUTION WOULD NOT SERVE THE INTERESTS OF MY COUNTRY, OR OF THE UNITED STATES, OR OF OUR MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP. AND I WISH TO REITERATE ONCE AGAIN THE POSITION OF MY GOVERNMENT -- AS A STRONG, SOVEREIGN ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES -- THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO RENDER ANY AND ALL COOPERATION WITHIN THE LIMIT OF COMITY, PRACTICE AND THE LAW OF NATIONS.

END TEXT. VANCE

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